

Howell Area Historical Society

Museum location: 128 Wetmore St.

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2015 - 2018

Board of Directors

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Duane Brown
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Vice President

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Museum Director

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Trustees

Linda Berch
Joan Wilkinson
John Jankiewicz

Advisory Committee:

Esther Brown
Dean Sutton



The Historical Society has wrapped up an active and productive year. A successful Car Show and Treats & Treasures Sale during Melon Festival assured our operating expenses will be covered for the winter. I cannot thank enough the membership and volunteers who stepped up this year to make things happen.

Those who attended the Annual meeting in October already know the plight we are facing. In the past, the membership dues covered the cost of utilities, insurance and required filings for the 1886 Historic Train Depot. This year, membership dues covered approximately one third of the \$3,000 of the expenses. In addition, building maintenance in 2014 totaled an additional \$2,900 with several issues to be addressed in 2015 including accessibility, heating and cooling and window repair.

The Society is fortunate to have had a successful "This Place Matters" Brick campaign several years ago led by Cathy Russell which provided the funding for the 2014 repairs to the building, door moldings, required gate replacement and fence repairs. We have spent the year reducing our expenses, but hard choices will have to be made in the coming year.

Without docents to open the museum, fresh and new ideas for fundraising events and new exhibits, we will not be able to meet expenses let alone, keep the building in repair and continue its use as a museum. If the museum is not open to the public on a regular basis, it is difficult to encourage support. It is up to all of us to decide just how important this 1886 Depot is to the community and to the preservation of its history.

Have a safe, happy and blessed holiday season,

Duane Brown, President

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On sunny Sunday afternoon on the 26th of October, the annual meeting took place at the Depot with membership and public in attendance. Duane Brown, president of the society, along with Esther Brown, outgoing trustee, detailed the society's accomplishments and welcomed new vice president, James Rudolph and new trustee, Linda Berch. Their new terms will begin January 1, 2015. The annual treasurer report was presented. After amendments to the bylaws were ap-

proved and the business meeting was adjourned, society member, Ed Vitez, presented a delightful and engaging program, **The History of the Caboose.**

The Courthouse Square Questers provided a wonderful fall refreshment table for all those in attendance. Earlier this year, the local Quester group also provided funds for restoration work done on a work of art owned by the society.





LIVINGSTON REPUBLICAN

OLDEST—YOUNGEST NEWSPAPER IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

Howell, Livingston County, Michigan, December 12, 1928

A REAL THEATRE

THE HOWELL OPENED
TUESDAY

With Capacity Houses—
Standing Room at a
Premium

The new Howell theatre was opened to the public Tuesday evening in a brilliant performance. The capacity of the theatre is 600 or more and every seat was taken at the two showings. The lobby was filled with a profusion of flowers much to the admiration of all.

That Howell now has a real play house up-to-the-minute there can be no doubt. The Schulte Amusement company of Detroit, owners and managers, is a guarantee of good shows.

If one may judge by the attendance at the opening night, then surely the new Howell Theatre, which opened last night, has a bright future in store.

Many were the expressions of delight and surprise upon viewing for the first time the beautiful decorations and the ultra-modern completeness of the equipment. A more delightful program for the opening would have been hard to find. That the folks were satisfied was many times evinced by the hearty bursts of applause. It was a real show, with real "show" atmosphere.

Especially noticeable were the numerous out-of-town cars. Howell streets looked more like a summer Saturday night. There is, however, ample parking space in the vicinity of the new Theatre, and it is hoped that those visitors will make Howell a habit, as they can find no place of entertainment the equal of the new Howell Theatre nearer than Detroit or Lansing.

Livingston county is proud of its new theatre. Let's reward the Schulte Amusement Co. by supporting it.

Happy 86th Birthday, Howell Theater, which opened on December 11, 1928



Throughout the year special people and business owners have stepped up to assist the society during events and sharing their time and talents including:

Mike Mason and the Caboose Crew for their continued efforts.

Scout troop 362 members - for putting up the lights on the Depot for the Christmas Season: Noah Smith, Ryan Boote, Caleb Bacon, Jacob Rushlow, Brent Berry, Brice Berry and their supervisors, Matt Senecal, Pat Berry, Barry Williams, Mr. Bacon and Bill Boote. Your dedication each year to the historic depot is appreciated.

Spirit of Livingston - for providing print copies of our newsletter.

McGowan Mini Storage - for the use of a storage unit for Melon Festival.

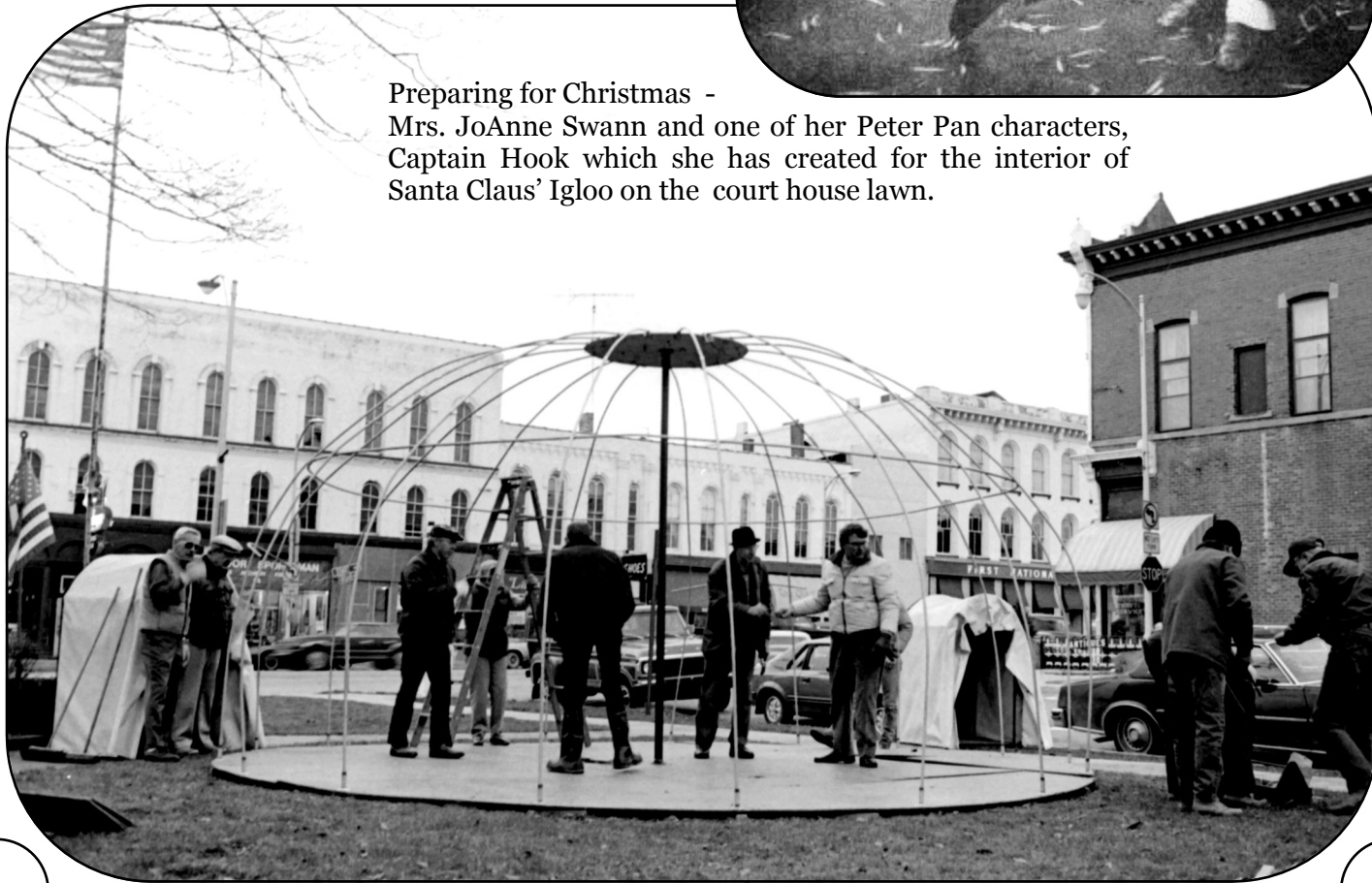
The Yard Sale Ladies - Cam Wolfe and Sherri McIntyre - for not only donating all their yard sale items to the Treats and Treasures sale but volunteering their time.

Special events contributions - Dan Kalis for bringing the train and Pat Keyes for costuming.





Preparing for Christmas -
Mrs. JoAnne Swann and one of her Peter Pan characters,
Captain Hook which she has created for the interior of
Santa Claus' Igloo on the court house lawn.



SPECIAL COLLECTION



Growing up in a time just after WWII ended gifts, in most families, were limited to special occasions. It might be the reason many of toys received during these childhood years were treasured into adulthood.

This display was loaned to the museum for the summer. It brings back special memories of birthday and Christmas gifts. The microscope and chemistry set opened a world of exploration. The Michigan Crane with a maneuvering boom and a working bucket was on many a Christmas list. The American Plastic Bricks were

used to create buildings and often, a garage, to house match box cars which some models had working doors, hoods and steering wheels. As Television followed radio, characters became popular trademark items.



The Howdy Doody (clock), Yogi Bear (mug), Hopalong Cassidy, Zorro (doll), Mickey Mouse, and many cartoon characters (as on the Welch's grape jelly glasses) were in great demand.

The 1960 Ford pick-up with trailer received as a Christmas gift in the early 60s holds a special place for our member as both he and his dad could "drive" their Ford pick-ups around, "like father, like son". Thank you, Bruce, for sharing your wonderful collection.



Not a member? Join today!

Your support is vital to the preservation of local history

Our updated website gives us the opportunity to share more history, our current projects, and to preserve memories shared with the society.

You can even renew your membership, drop us a email, purchase a "This Place Matters" brick, sign up as a volunteer or make a donation online.

"Like" our facebook page for updates on coming events.



VG's Community Rewards Program still supports the Historical society

Don't have a computer to register? Call us, we will be glad to help

Registering your Kroger Card on line will also support the Society.

2015 Annual Membership

January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2015

Single - \$15.00 Family - \$25.00 Contributing - \$100.00
Lifetime - \$500.00

**CLOSED FOR THE WINTER
2015 SEASON PLANNING WILL BEGIN IN MARCH**

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